



Nevada Site Office News

News Media Contact:

Darwin J. Morgan, 702-295-3521

morgan@nv.doe.gov

Kevin J. Rohrer, 702-295-0197

rohrer@nv.doe.gov

For Immediate Release:

June 8, 2004

Homeland Security Training Facilities Planned for NTS

A vital part of defending the United States is the ability to interdict the unauthorized transportation of radioactive materials into the country. The National Nuclear Security Administration's Nevada Test Site is proposing to build facilities to test and evaluate sensor systems and train people in the use of those systems at border crossings and transportation facilities.

As presently conceived, eight or more venues are planned. Primary and secondary port of entry stations, airport inspection facilities, test tracks, and training facilities would be built on about 100 acres of the 1,375 square mile Nevada Test Site.

Future facilities to include a two-to-three mile section of highway; a segment of railroad track; simulated seaport, including an operational gantry crane and cargo ship mock-up; and a mock urban area for radiological material searches are planned.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 includes provisions authorizing the Department of Homeland Security to utilize Department of Energy sites in carrying out its mission. To that end, Homeland Security has provided \$13 million to the Nevada Test Site to begin this project in FY 2004.

As a part of the project planning and in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Nevada Site Office prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed projects. The assessment includes a detailed description of the entire proposal. A preapproval draft of the EA is available for review for a period of about 33 days, June 4 to July 8, 2004. Copies of the preapproval draft EA may be obtained from the Nevada Site Office. In addition, the document is available for review in the agency's public reading room at the Frank H. Rogers Building on 755 East Flamingo.